Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 03456 282213Z ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 L-03 H-01 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 FRB-03 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /061 W

R 282210Z FEB 78 FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8616 INFO TREASURY WASHDC

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EO 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN MX

SUBJECT: FOREIGN CONVENTIONS: ADMINISTRATION'S TAX

PROPOSAL

REF: STATE 44325

- 1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO OUR REFTEL. THUS FAR, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY MEXICAN CRITICISM OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL, THOUGH WE SUSPECT SOME MAY EMERGE. WHETHER OR NOT THE PROPOSAL WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO MEXICO WOULD DEPEND ON HOW THE "REASONABLENESS" OF HOLDING MEETINGS IN MEXICO IS DETERMINED.
- 2. AS REGARDS A DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY, THE MEXICANS HAVE VIEWED THIS AS A GREATER BENEFIT TO AN INVESTING COUNTRY THAN TO A DEVELOPING NATION WHICH IS A NET RECIPIENT OF INVESTMENT. SHOULD WE BE ABLE TO OFFER A PROVISION THAT WOULD MAKE CONVENTION EXPENDITURES IN MEXICO TAX DEDUCTIBLE FOR U.S. RESIDENTS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR REASONABLENESS FROM A TAX POINT OF VIEW, THIS WOULD MAKE A DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY CONSIDERABLY MORE ATTRACTIVE TO MEXICO.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 03456 282213Z

3. THE OTHER MAJOR OBSTACLE TO A TREATY HAS BEEN OPPOSITION TO AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION PROVISION BY MEXICANS WITH U.S. INCOME, BY U.S. RESIDENTS WITH MEXICAN INCOME AND BY U.S. CITIZENS RESIDENT IN MEXICO. IN THEORY, MEXICO'S INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX IS LEVIED ON GLOBAL INCOME. AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION PROVISION WOULD BE USEFUL TO THE TAX SERVICES OF BOTH COUNTRIES, BUT WOULD BE STRONGLY

OPPOSED BY CITIZENS OF BOTH COUNTRIES WHO DO NOT ALWAYS REPORT THEIR GLOBAL INCOME ACCURATELY. IN THE PAST, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT SUCH OPPOSITION HAS PREVENTED DISCUSSING A DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY.

4. WE PRESUME THAT WE SHOULD NOT RAISE AT THIS STAGE THE POSSIBILITY OF A DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY WITH A CLAUSE GIVING CONVENTIONS IN MEXICO THE SAME TAX TREATMENT AS THEY HOLD IN THE UNITED STATES. PLEASE ADVISE. THOMPSON

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